

African American Council Members  
City of Charleston, South Carolina

The 1783 charter of the City of Charleston provided for a form of government that generally existed in cities during the colonial era. From 1783 to 1808, the city was divided into thirteen wards, each represented by a warden elected annually; the intendant was elected from the wardens. The city elected wardens and intendants until 1836. The city elected a mayor and aldermen from 1836 through 1975. The city has elected a mayor and council members from 1975 to the present.

**1868: Military appointments made by Major Edward Camby**

Reverend Ennals J. Adams  
Reverend Richard H. Cain  
Richard Dereef  
Robert Howard  
William McKinlay  
Edward P. Wall  
William Weston

**November 1868 Election**

William McKinlay  
Robert Howard, Sr.  
Richard Holloway  
William R. Hampton  
Launcelot F. Wall  
Philip Thorne  
Malcom Brown  
Edward P. Wall  
Thomas Small

**1871 Election.** No African American aldermen from 1871-73.<sup>1</sup>

**1873 Election**

W. J. McKinlay  
S. B. Garrett  
A. B. Mitchell  
W. G. Fields  
John A. Godfrey  
B. Moncrief  
George Shrewsbury  
John Gordon  
R. N. Gregorie

**1877 Election.** No African American city council representatives for 90 years.

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<sup>1</sup> Bernard E. Powers, Jr., *Black Charlestonians: A Social History* (Fayetteville: The University of Arkansas Press, 1994), 228.

St. Julian Devine, 1967-1975. Mayor Pro Tem in 1975. First black alderman in 90 years.<sup>2</sup>

Frank McKenzie, 1971-75

David S. Hill, 1971-1975

Jerome Kinloch, 1975-1998

Daniel L. Richardson, 1975-1992

Hilda Jefferson, 1975-1998 (female)

Arthur Christopher, 1975-1992

Brenda Scott, 1975-1998 (female)

Robert Ford, 1975-1992

Ligure Ellington, 1992-1996

Maurice Washington, 1992-2000

Louis Waring, 1994-2012

[James Lewis, Jr.](#), 1996-

Kwado Campbell, 1998-2004

[Robert Mitchell](#), 1998-2002, 2006-

Wendell J. Gilliard, 1998-2008

Jimmy S. Gallant, 2000-2012

[William Dudley Gregorie](#), 2009-

[Perry K. Waring](#), 2012-

[Rodney Williams](#), 2014-

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<sup>2</sup> Robert Behre, "Charleston's City Council Draws Outside the Lines of Race," *Post and Courier*, 28 February 1993.